

# Online Safety News



Spring 2020 | PARENTS/CARERS

## Updated online safety resources for parents and carers



**Childnet** has recently updated some of their internet safety resources for parents and carers. The new suite of resources can help the whole family to stay safe online.

Childnet has a dedicated area to support parents and carers with information on key online safety topics, advice and activities to share with your child.

You can access the new resources here: [www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers](http://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers)



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## BBC 'Own It' keyboard and App

If your child has got their first smartphone, then this app, which has been developed by the **BBC**, may be of interest to you.

A specially designed interactive custom keyboard is downloaded with the app. As the child types using the keyboard, depending on the content of their text, safety and wellbeing questions and reminders are given on the screen. If, for example, your child is typing personal information, such as a mobile number or email address, the app will intervene and tell the child to 'think safe' before sharing. Everything your child types is kept completely private, and never leaves the 'Own It' app on their phone.

The BBC explains, the app can help in 'supporting their digital wellbeing, showing them how to make smarter and better informed choices and helping them grow into confident, positive and happy digital citizens.'

To find out more visit: <https://www.bbc.com/ownit/take-control/own-it-app>



## 11 things you should know about loot boxes



Parents and carers may have seen stories about loot boxes in the news recently.

**Childnet** has written an article to help clarify the key information about loot boxes, what they mean for young people and their online safety and what parents can do to encourage safe and responsible usage. [The article can be accessed here.](#)

**BBC 'Own It'** also has a really useful resource about loot boxes:

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit/take-control/loot-box-breakdown>

## Know the stakes



**Parent Zone** has created a new resource pack for parents, carers and professionals to support children and young people to stay in control of their finances and understand the risks of gambling. Download your free pack here <https://parentzone.org.uk/knowthestakes>



## Safer Internet Day

Many schools will celebrate **Safer Internet Day** on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The theme for this year is 'Together for a better Internet.'

Safer Internet Day is designed to empower young people to take control of their digital lives. This year the focus will be on online identity and will ask young people to consider whether they and their peers are truly free to be themselves online.

There are lots of free resources you can use on the day to talk to your child about online safety. There is a pack which includes activities, conversation starters and information to help you talk to your children about how to navigate the issue of online identity in a safe, responsible and respectful way. You can access the resources here:

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2020/i-am-parent-or-carer>

The information in the newsletter is given to help promote the safety of children and young people online. Every care has been taken to ensure the information and any recommendations in the newsletter are accurate at the time of publishing. Schools must make their own judgements when sharing our recommendations with parents and carers and, where appropriate, always risk assess with their pupils and whole school community in mind.

This newsletter is brought to you by the Herts for Learning Wellbeing team as part of their online safety support for schools and settings in Hertfordshire.